

Mayor Michael L. Cohen
Commissioner William A. Fiore
Commissioner John R. Murphy

Longport TownTopics

Celebrating 120 Years
1882 - 2002

November 2002

Potential consolidation of emergency dispatch department meetings continue

The idea of consolidating services among the three Downbeach communities of Longport, Margate and Ventnor is not new. In fact, some municipal services and emergency management equipment are currently shared. Joining together with neighboring community, Egg Harbor Township is another option, according to Emil Van Hook of VHE Group, Inc.

Hook noted in his presentation to commissioners Oct.

16 that one way to "enhance productivity, implement cost saving initiatives and improve efficiency," is by sharing services.

Several Downbeach officials attended the presentation and raised questions and concerns.

Some of the issues included technological capabilities, location of the centralized unit, and cost.

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Honoring our Veterans



Veterans from the American Legion Post 469- John A. Kuzmann Memorial held their annual ceremony at the Krechmer Pavilion in commemoration of Veteran's Day Nov. 11th.

Dunes creating barriers among Absecon Island residents

The proposed Absecon Island Shore Protection Project, or dune and beach replenishment project, has residents divided on each side of the dune fence.

On a referendum question placed on Ventnor City's ballot election day Nov. 5, residents voted in favor of the project 2 to 1 after intense campaigning on both sides of the issue. Two days later, at the Ventnor Board of Commissioners meeting Nov. 7, an ordinance was passed allowing the city to participate in the project.

An informal survey conducted Nov. 2 in Longport, discovered that borough vot-

ers that were polled (approximately 20 percent of the town's registered voters)

Included in that survey, voters also overwhelmingly approved the construction of a beachfront walkway along the inside of the seawall from 17th to 27th avenues, as well as, the construction of a bayfront walkway on Atlantic Avenue, from 17th to 22nd avenues, where the rocks are piled.

Officials from Margate and Longport have not decided yet, if and when a referendum would be placed



A proposal for a sand-dune wall along the beach front of Absecon Island has residents taking sides. Some favor the shore front storm protection measure, others say the project will ruin the area's beaches and cause property values to plummet.

ers also approved of the project. Of the 200 voters

57 percent voted in favor of the project.

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Dunes

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on the ballot or if a special election would be held.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection held a meeting Oct. 9 at the Ventnor Education Community Complex.

The Army Corps and DEP stated that the project is designed to "reduce storm damage due to flooding and wave attack and minimize shoreline erosion."

The Army Corps conducted several studies to determine what type of shore protection project would be most cost effective. Their studies resulted in a project that incorporated a beachfill with a dune system.

The theory behind a the project is that during a storm or wave attack,

waves would erode the dunes and this sand would then form a sand bar directly offshore. The sand bar would then help to dissipate wave energy.

After a storm, the normal cycle is for waves to bring the sand back to the shore and then winds would blow the sand towards the dune area, ultimately recreating the dune growth cycle.

According to the study, the initial height of the dunes in Longport would be approximately 2.5 feet above the seawall. The beach fill would account for a berm or "towel area" of approximately 100 feet from the base of the dune.

Access to the beach would be provided by natural beach walkways over the dunes. Handicapped, emergency and maintenance access would also be provided at several intervals along the beach. General

beach access would be provided at most street ends.

Ventnor officials noted that the ability to control the height of the dune was a key issue at the meeting.

Mark Mauriello of the DEP indicated that there are maintenance plans that could be implemented to help control the height and growth of dunes.

Federal Emergency Management Agency representative Patricia Griggs noted that whether a municipality decided to implement the project would not have an impact on flood insurance "whatsoever." She added that if a shore protection project was in place a municipality's Community Rating would increase. The increase would equal a larger discount for flood insurance.

Those interested in more information may visit the Army's web site at www.nap.usace.army.mil/cenap-dp/projects/absecon/

Web site work

Work has begun on a municipal web site to help provide information to the public on Longport.

Some of the features include a borough hall directory, community events, Longport history, and meeting information.

It is anticipated that work will be completed by the new year. The address to access the site will be www.longport-nj.gov.

absecon.htm or contact its Philadelphia District's Public Affairs Office at (215) 656-6515.

Dispatch

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Most officials seem to agree that a consolidated dispatch department is generally a good idea.

The merger is still in the discussion phase and Downbeach officials will meet again to see if they wish to continue with consolidation or not.

Wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving to all

Mayor Michael Cohen, Commissioner William Fiore and Commissioner John Murphy, along with all the employees of Borough Hall would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday.



Former Longport resident elected mayor in Linwood

The Mayor and Commissioners would like to congratulate Richard DePamphilis, III, on his election as Mayor of the City of Linwood.

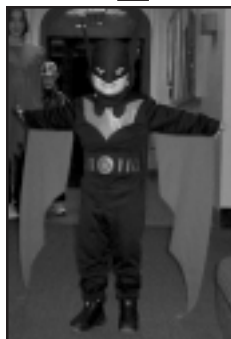
A former resident, DePamphilis has deep roots in the borough.

Congratulations are also in order for his parents Richard, Jr., and Faye DePamphilis and his grandfather Richard DePamphilis, all of Longport.

Commissioner William Fiore presents Daniel Adams, Assistant Fire Chief of the Longport Volunteer Fire Department and Longport Beach Patrol Captain with a gift to congratulate Adams on his promotion to captain of the Margate Fire Department Oct. 10 at the Margate City Commission Meeting.



A Spooktacular Night at Borough Hall



Richard D'Aurizio, 2, spreads his bat wings.



(From left to right) Lauren Rook, 10, Nicky Rook, 5, and Megan Rook, 11, stopped for treats.



Emma Cavage, 2, performs a cheer for Halloween.



Alex Gulko and her mother Anna Gulko flash back to the 1960s.



Daniel Dulin, 3, and Daniel Faig, 3, collect Halloween sweets from Borough Hall.



Colin McFadden, 11, Dad McFadden, and Katelyn McFadden, 12, pose for a photograph.



Princess Kaytie Parisi, 3, graces the building.



The Arena family stopped by for treats, including Gabe, 1, Bailey, 2, and Benjamin, 9 months.



The Gibbons Girls brought a warm smile on a chilly Halloween night.



Aidan Lowe, 1, roars into Halloween.



(From left to right) Louis Martello, James Baumgardner, 8, Sean O'Leary, 12, and Michael O'Leary, 10, gathered Halloween goodies.



Longport Senior Citizens invited to luncheon at Borough Hall

Nothing warms the soul like a cup of hot chocolate on a chilly January day. In a spirit of cozy gatherings, Mayor Michael Cohen and Commissioner William Fiore and Commissioner John Murphy are inviting Longport's senior citizens to a day of friendly smiles and a hot meal cooked by Maloney's Restaurant. Seniors are being invited to a free luncheon from noon to 3 p.m. on January 15 in the Centennial Ballroom, located on the second floor of borough hall at 2305 Atlantic Avenue.

There will also be entertainment and transportation will be provided if necessary.

Interested senior residents must RSVP no later than January 6th by calling either Kathleen Hewson, Borough Clerk at 823-2731 ext. 100 or Monica Czaplinski at 823-2731 ext. 119. Please leave a message including your name and the number attending the luncheon. If transportation is needed please leave a telephone number where you can be contacted to make necessary arrangements.

If you know of anyone or an organization that would like to sponsor the February 12th and March 12th winter senior luncheons, please contact the Mayor's Office by dialing 823-2731 ext. 119.



Winter Season Calendar of Events

Nov. 29- The first Hannukah candle will be lit to mark the beginning the eight day Jewish Festival of Lights.

Dec. 7- The Annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony is scheduled for 7 p.m. Dec. 7 at the Krechmer Pavilion located at the foot of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge. This year the September 11th Memorial Tree will be lit. Santa will also arrive in a fire truck for the children. Immediately following the festivities hot chocolate and cookies will be available at Totaro Hall, located at 28th and Atlantic avenues.

Dec. 8- The Longport Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad is holding its Annual Lunch with Santa starting at noon at the firehouse located behind Borough Hall.

Dec. 8- The Longport Historical Society is scheduled to sponsor its annual Christmas Concert at 7 p.m. on Dec. 8th at the Church of the Redeemer located at 20th and Atlantic avenues. The concert will be followed by holiday treats and beverages.

Jan. 15- A free Luncheon for Longport Senior Citizens is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. on Jan. 15th in the Centennial Ballroom of Borough Hall located at 2305 Atlantic Avenue. There will be entertainment and transportation is available if necessary. Interested senior residents may RSVP by calling 823-2731 ext. 100 or 119.

Borough of Longport
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2305 Atlantic Ave.
Longport, NJ 08403

Town Topics

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Longport, NJ 08403

ATTENTION LONGPORT SENIOR CITIZENS

“FREE MIDWINTER LUNCHEONS
AT BOROUGH HALL”



PLEASE MARK THE FOLLOWING DATES ON YOUR
CALENDAR- JANUARY 15,
FEBRUARY 12 AND MARCH 12 (noon till 3 p.m.)

THE BOROUGH OF LONGPORT IS INVITING YOU TO JOIN
THE FUN DURING THE CHILLY MONTHS WITH FRIENDS
AND NEIGHBORS, A HOT MEAL, ENTERTAINMENT AND
SWEETS.



R.S.V.P. A MUST. CALL 823-2731 extension 100 or 119.
PLEASE INCLUDE THE NUMBER THAT WILL BE AT-
TENDING. TRANSPORTATION IS AVAILABLE. PLEASE
CALL FOR DETAILS.

NOTE . . . ANY PERSON OR COMPANY WISHING TO
SPONSOR A LONGPORT SENIOR CITIZEN LUNCHEON,
PLEASE CONTACT THE HALL
AT THE ABOVE NUMBER.

Marine rescue by volunteer LPFD

Without a moment's hesitation the Longport Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad responded to a call of a capsized boat with two victims in the water near the 11th Avenue jetty Nov. 10.

A father and his son, Matthew Damirgian, 42, and Justin Damirgian, 17, were out fishing on the rough seas when their 16-foot aluminum fishing boat unexpectedly turned over.

The incident was called in at 1:36 p.m. by volunteer firefighter Steve Swift, who was fishing near the area at the time, according to Longport Volunteer Fire Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton.

The fire department responded within minutes and Assistant Chief Bruce Funk, followed by firefighters Eric Funk and Steve Swift, dove into the water to rescue the two men who were hanging on to the overturned boat.

Prior to the fire department's arrival, Stan Kiska of Egg Harbor Township and Ricky Tolk of Brigantine were heading back after a day of fishing by the John F. Kennedy Memorial Bridge when they noticed a great deal of commotion by the 11th Avenue jetty.

"There were a lot of people on the rocks whistling and screaming," Kiska said. As he neared the area, he noticed a boat that was overturned in the choppy seas, where the winds were blowing at 25 mph. "They were close to the rocks. It was pretty shaky," he added.

Kiska and Tolk then tied a rope to a sea cushion, a type of personal flotation device, and threw it towards the father.

Kiska then explained how the father declined to take the cushion, requesting that the two boaters save his son first. Swift and Eric Funk, along with



Photo courtesy of Pete Baker

(left to right) Volunteer Firefighters Steve Swift and Eric Funk were two of the swimmers involved in a marine rescue Nov. 10. Tolk's help were successful in pulling the son aboard.

Meanwhile, Bruce Funk was able to bring the father safely to the rocks. Eric Funk and Swift worked to upright the vessel, with the help of another boat and tow it to safety.

Kiska provided the son with his gloves, hat and jacket, explaining that in the 50-degree water, hypothermia can set in quickly. "I'm glad everything worked out and that everyone survived." The rescue was a good joint effort between the fire department and local fishermen, he said.

Once brought to shore, the two victims were taken to Shore Memorial hospital for evaluation, said Clayton, who added that the two did not sustain any major injury.

Despite their valiant rescue and lightning-quick response, the fire department views the event as part of everyday life as a firefighter.

"We were just doing our job," Funk explained.

Those involved in the team effort included Chief Levon "Lefty" Clayton, Capt. Richard Hirsch, Capt. James Leeds, Commissioner William Fiore, Lt. Joseph Baumgardner, firefighters Dennis Funk, David Funk and Louis Naoum.

The LPFD also wishes to thank the two other boats involved in the marine rescue.

"The Longport Fire Department compliments Capt. Stan Kiska of the vessel 'The Truth One' and the captain of the second boat, who put themselves and their vessels in jeopardy to help with the rescue," Funk said.

The firefighters involved in the rescue are scheduled to receive certificates of commendation at the next regular Commission meeting scheduled to be held at 5 p.m. Dec. 4 inside Commission Chambers of Borough Hall located at 2305 Atlantic Avenue.

New Historical Society officers elected

The Longport Historical Society and Museum has newly elected officers for a two-year term. An election was held Nov. 12 where Bob Hanrahan was elected president, Ellen Cohen as vice-president, Mary Sue Lovett as secretary and Joe Baumgardner as treasurer.

Mary Ann Toner and Leslie Jones were newly elected to the Board of Trustees and Lee Karlock was appointed to the Executive Board. Other members of the Executive Board include: David Buzby, Richard DePamphilis Sr., William Fiore, Bruce Funk, Jean Gibbons, John F. Murphy, Thomas B. Reed, Kate Subranni, Marge Woolston, Anna Mae Yust and Thomas Subranni.

The 2003 Historical Society Membership Application is scheduled to be mailed on Nov. 23. The 2003 Calendars will be ready for mailing on Dec. 15.